



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/688,481
Applicant: da Costa e Silva et al.
Filed: October 17, 2003
TC/A.U.: 1638
Examiner: COLLINS, Cynthia
Docket No.: 15095-02
Customer No.: 0 29137

Confirmation No.: 3938

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 29, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are not applicable. However, Applicants hereby petition to submit Figures 2-10 in color.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

Certification Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.10

I certify that the attached correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, Express Mail Label No. EL807451094US, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 20, 2006.


Heidi V. Sullivan